



The Biden administration guaranteed attorney access for all migrant screenings



In this photo provided by U.S. Customs and Border Protection is an aerial view of the soft-sided migrant processing facility at Otay Mesa in San Diego on Jan. 31, 2023. Associated Press

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U.S. forest managers urge revelers to swap fireworks for Silly String, but some say not so fast

By S. MONTOYA BRYAN

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

— Smokey Bear said it best: "Only you can prevent wildfires."

Following in the footsteps of their famous mascot, U.S. Forest Service managers in the drought-stricken Southwest are urging people to swap their fireworks this Fourth of July for glow sticks, noisemakers and cans of red, white and blue Silly String.

Not so fast, say some environmentalists. While it's worth encouraging folks not to use fireworks amid escalating wildfire danger, they say it's kind of silly that federal land manag-



This June 30, 2023 image shows a sign prohibiting fireworks in the Sandia Mountains that border Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Associated Press

ers would suggest using aerosol cans of sticky party string out in nature. The ad-

vice began to pop up in recent weeks, with regional forest officials and the New

Mexico State Forestry Division pumping out public service announcements offering alternatives aimed at curbing human-sparked blazes.

They used a template that echoed similar advice from the National Fire Protection Association and even American Red Cross chapters in other states.

"These are alternatives for children and young people to do in lieu of fireworks in their neighborhood or on their property. That way we'd like to keep things contained to your property and your neighborhood," said George Ducker, a spokesman for the State Forestry Division. "We're certainly not advocating folks go out into the forest and, you know, shoot off Silly String."

But if they do, the Forest Service has one request: Leave no trace.

However people choose to celebrate, the rules and regulations need to be followed if they are on national forest land no matter if it's July Fourth or any other day, said John Winn, a spokesman for the federal agency.

"That includes but is not limited to the restricted use of fireworks, properly disposing of garbage in garbage bins, maintaining quiet hours and cleaning up after camping or day-use activities," he said.

Cleaning up spray streamers fits in that category, he added.

While the spray can party favors have been around since the 1970s, manufacturers keep their recipes under wraps. In general, the string is made of a polymer resin, a substance that makes the resin foam up, a solvent, some coloring and the propellant that forces the chemicals out of the can.

Authorities in Los Angeles decided to ban aerosol party streamers in 2004 on Hollywood Boulevard every Halloween because partygoers were using the empty cans as projectiles and many were left littering

the streets and clogging gutters.

Towns in Massachusetts and Alabama also have adopted ordinances restricting the use of the string, pointing to problems during special events. In one New York town, firefighters who participated in a parade complained that the string was damaging the paint on their trucks. Rebecca Sobel with the group WildEarth Guardians said party string is just one of the hundreds of seemingly benign products that pervade daily life.

"We have to be more vigilant about the chemicals in 'everyday' things," she said. "Maybe the Forest Service should have known better, but it's also hard to know what chemicals some products contain."

She pointed to recent headlines about 'forever chemicals' found in firefighting foam and other common products, saying consumers have a responsibility to be aware of threats but they can't do that if regulatory agencies aren't being transparent or reading labels themselves. Some consumer product sites say party string is not biodegradable. While many cans are labeled as non-toxic, the string can damage vinyl surfaces or the clear coat on vehicles. The labels also suggest that if ingested, medical attention might be in order. That goes for humans and pets, as some of the ingredients can contain gastrointestinal irritants.

"All of this makes it inappropriate for use at our national forest recreation sites," says Madeleine Carney, WildEarth Guardians' Southwest conservation manager. "Many seemingly fun party products like Silly String are extremely harmful to our forests and wildlife. Mylar balloons, noisemakers and glitter are also on the list."

The bottom line for state and federal forest managers is to prevent human-caused wildfires, Ducker said. □




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The Biden administration guaranteed attorney access for all migrant screenings

From Front

By ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — As the Biden administration prepared to launch speedy asylum screenings at Border Patrol holding facilities this spring, authorities pledged a key difference from a Trump-era version of the policy: Migrants would be guaranteed access to legal counsel.

Nearly three months and thousands of screenings later, the promise of attorney access appears largely unfulfilled, based on advocacy group reports and interviews with people directly involved, some of whom spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the effort publicly.

A coterie of involved attorneys estimate that perhaps 100 migrants have secured formal representation, and only hundreds more have received informal advice through one-time phone calls ahead of the expedited screenings.

Jones Day, one of the world's largest law firms, has partnered with the administration to provide free legal advice to migrants. Its phone bank handled 460 informal phone consultations, each one typically lasting about two hours, as of June 21, according to one of the people who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity. Jones Day itself had only two formal clients, the person said.

Four other advocacy groups that offer free advice and whose names are posted on the immigration court system's website have handled far fewer phone consultations, partly because they started much later, the person said. Representatives from those four groups declined to comment or did not respond to requests from the AP.

That represents a mere fraction of the thousands of expedited screenings since early April, though a precise percentage couldn't be



In this photo provided by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection is an interior view of the soft-sided migrant processing facility in Laredo, Texas, on Sept. 23, 2021.

Associated Press

determined. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, whose asylum officers conduct the interviews, didn't answer questions about attorney representation. U.S. authorities aim to complete screenings in 72 hours — the limit on holding someone under Border Patrol policy. The Homeland Security Department said the accelerated timeline is meant "to provide relief more quickly to those who are eligible and to more quickly remove those who are not." AP has repeatedly requested to visit a screening facility to better understand the process.

During the screenings, known as "credible fear interviews," migrants must convince an asylum officer that they have a "significant possibility" of convincing a judge that they face persecution in their home countries on grounds of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a social group. If they pass, they are typically released in the U.S. while their case winds through the system. The percentage of people who passed asylum screenings fell to 52% during the second half of May as the fast-track process picked up, down from 77% the second half of March, just before it began.

The government figures give no explanation and do not say how many expedited screenings occurred in Border Patrol custody without access to legal counsel. Administration officials have attributed lower approval rates in part to a new policy that severely limits asylum for people who travel through another country, like Mexico, to reach the U.S. border.

A lawsuit filed last month in federal court in Washington seeks to end the screenings in Border Patrol custody, noting that applicants get as little as 24 hours to find attorneys after often-harrowing journeys. The lawsuit contends that "leaves virtually no time or ability for noncitizens to consult with anyone or meaningfully prepare for these often life-or-death interviews.

Even migrants who pass are reluctant to discuss their experiences as they to continue pursuing asylum cases. U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla, a California Democrat, said in a statement that reports of lacking attorney access at Border Patrol facilities are "troubling and disappointing."

The administration won't say how many of the screenings it has done at Border Patrol facilities, which prohibit in-person at-

torney visits, though it is easily thousands. The Homeland Security Department said June 5 that asylum officers did more than 11,500 screenings on the border in the first three weeks after pandemic-related asylum restrictions ended, though some may have been at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement centers, which do allow attorney visits. Normally, about three in four migrants pass credible fear interviews, though far fewer eventually win asylum. But the results roughly flipped during the five months of the Trump-era program of expedited screenings: Only 23% passed, while 69% failed and 9% withdrew, according to the Government Accountability Office. Biden ended Trump's fast-track reviews within a month of Democrats occupying the White House, part of an executive order aimed at "restoring and enhancing asylum processing at the border."

Renewed screenings began in Texas' Rio Grande Valley and expanded the following week to similarly sprawling tent complexes in Laredo and El Paso in Texas; Yuma, Arizona; and San Diego — all temporary Border Patrol detention centers built since 2021 with

hundreds of phone booths for interviews.

For about three weeks in April, Jones Day attorneys were able to prepare all migrants who sought informal legal advice by phone but were soon overwhelmed, according to one person with direct knowledge of the effort.

Some legal service providers wrestled with whether to participate in the "Enhanced Expedited Removal" program as the screenings process is called. They don't get paid and some worried it might imply approval and lend legitimacy. Americans for Immigrant Justice joined the Jones Day-led effort because the interviews carry "life-and-death" stakes, said Cindy Woods, national policy counsel. "It's a difficult situation to be in, especially because the way that this new iteration has been laid out," she said.

Calls that come in at night or on weekends are missed, and attorneys say they have no reliable way to respond to messages.

Obtaining formal representation for the screening may require a signature, which requires assistance from agents who may be unavailable. One of Woods' clients was on the phone for five hours while waiting for an agent to print a consent form and fax it back to the attorney with the migrant's signature.

The National Immigrant Justice Center, which takes clients through the Jones Day-led phone bank, said in a report that only six of 23 clients had access to pen and paper to take notes.

Jones Day attorneys occupied the highest ranks of the Trump administration, including White House counsel Don McGahn. Despite ties to the former president, who called asylum "a sham," the firm built a robust practice representing asylum-seekers for free known as the "Border Project," operating from an office it opened in 2017 on the banks of the Rio Grande in Laredo. □



A police officer stands in the area of a mass shooting incident in the Southern District of Baltimore, Sunday, July 2, 2023.

Associated Press

By JULIO CORTEZ and HOLLY RAMER

Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Gunfire erupted at a block party in Baltimore on Sunday — killing two people, wounding 28 and leaving an extensive crime scene that marred the U.S. holiday weekend, police said. Three of the wounded were in critical condition and more than a dozen were under 18.

The shooting took place just after 12:30 a.m. when at least two people opened fire at a block party in the Brooklyn Homes area in the southern part of the city, said Richard Worley, Baltimore's acting police commissioner. No arrests had been made by late afternoon. Worley said it wasn't clear if the shooting was

targeted or random.

The shooting comes amid gatherings around the country leading up to the July Fourth holiday. Elsewhere, a shooting in Kansas left seven people with gunshot wounds and two more victims hospitalized after being trampled as people rushed out of a nightclub early Sunday morning, police there said.

The violence in Baltimore occurred as federal prosecutors there this week touted their efforts to reduce violent crime in the city. Police have reported nearly 130 homicides and close to 300 shootings so far this year, though that's down from the same time last year. Authorities have vowed to crack down aggressively on repeat violent

offenders.

Nine of Sunday's victims were transported by ambulance and 20 walked into area hospitals with injuries from the shooting, Worley said. Nine remained hospitalized Sunday afternoon.

An 18-year-old woman was found dead at the scene and a 20-year-old man was pronounced dead at a hospital shortly after, police said.

"I want those who are responsible to hear me, and hear me very clearly," Mayor Brandon Scott said at the scene. "We will not stop until we find you, and we will find you. Until then, I hope that every single breath you take, that you think about the lives that you took, think about the lives that you impacted

Baltimore block party shooting victims include more than a dozen minors

here tonight."

Scott asked anyone with information to come forward to assist investigators locate the "cowards" who were responsible for the shooting.

Gov. Wes Moore said his "heart breaks for these victims, their families, and the Baltimore community that is coping with the loss."

"Maryland has had enough of watching gun violence continue to ravage our state and our nation," Moore said in a statement. "The fact that these horrific shootings continue to take place is abominable. We as a state will continue to do everything we can to prevent senseless acts of violence like the one we saw last night."

Authorities said the crime scene was extensive and that it took some time for detectives to work it.

Hours after the shooting, a number of officers remained working behind police tape amid densely packed two-story housing blocks. Folding tables and plastic cups were scattered on the street, apparently left behind when people ran from the gunshots.

Lakell Nelson said there had been several false alarms of people mistaking the sounds of fireworks for gunfire earlier in the night while she was at the block

party. The actual shooting started as she was getting to her car.

"The shots were just going on and on and on," she said.

That's when two young women approached her and said they'd been shot, with one woman showing how a bullet had gone through her shorts.

Nelson said she told the women to get in the car and she sped through red lights to get to the nearest hospital.

"When I pulled up to the door of the hospital, my car was almost getting ready to be inside the hospital, because I was determined to get those babies in that hospital," Nelson said.

A police union official said in an email Sunday there were no officers specifically assigned to the gathering.

"There were only three officers assigned to the Brooklyn area of Baltimore City's Southern District. This is a large area, and to police it safely and effectively you need about seven to eight officers per shift," said Mike Mancuso, president of the Baltimore City Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 3.

Mancuso said about 2,800 officers are needed to effectively police the city, but staffing is down to about 2,100. □

Excessive heat warnings remain in many areas of U.S. through Monday

By The Associated Press

Excessive heat warnings remain in place in many areas across the U.S. and are expected to last at least through Monday.

In Arizona's largest metro area, Phoenix and surrounding communities flirted with a high of 115 degrees Fahrenheit (46 degrees Celsius) on Sunday. The National Weather Service in Phoenix is forecasting 116 degrees for Monday, just two degrees off the record high for that date set in 1907, before temperatures drop a few

degrees for the next three days. In Nevada, the first excessive heat warning of the summer runs through Monday evening for the Las Vegas metro area. Daytime cooling centers are open across the region. It was 102 degrees Friday at Harry Reid International Airport in Las Vegas, ending a 294-day stretch of temperatures staying below 100.

The high in central Las Vegas was near 112 degrees Sunday, with 113 predicted for Monday, according to the National Weather Service. A record of 111

degrees (44 Celsius) was marked Saturday in Paso Robles, surpassing a high of 107 (41 Celsius) set in 2013. In Southern California, excessive heat warnings and advisories were extended through Monday for inland areas east of Los Angeles. Elsewhere, the heat and severe weather remained a concern throughout the U.S. southeast.

Heat advisories remained in effect throughout the southeast Sunday while a severe thunderstorm watch was in effect until 8 p.m. for parts of Alabama, Arkan-



Beachgoers flock to the beach south of the pier in Huntington Beach, Calif., Friday, June 30, 2023.

Associated Press

sas, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina and Tennessee. Thunderstorm warn-

ings were issued throughout the region on Sunday afternoon. □

Russia launches the first drone strike on Kyiv in 12 days and all are shot down

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — After a relative lull, Russia launched a drone attack early Sunday on Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, officials said. It was the first such attack of the war in 12 days.

All of the Iranian-made Shahed exploding drones were detected and shot down, according to Serhii Popko, the head of the Kyiv city administration. In addition to the city itself, the surrounding Kyiv region was targeted. Kyiv regional Gov. Ruslan Kravchenko reported that one person was wounded by falling debris from a destroyed drone.

Officials in the Ukrainian capital didn't provide an exact number of drones that attacked the city. But Ukraine's air force said that across the country, eight Shaheds and three Kalibr cruise missiles were launched by the Russians. Further south, a 13-year-old boy was wounded in overnight shelling of Ukraine's partially occupied southern Kherson province, said Oleksandr Tolokonnikov, spokesman for the Ukrainian administration of the province.

The child was wounded when the Russian army shelled the village of Mylove on the banks of the Dnieper River in the Beryslav



Ukrainian air defense intercepts a Shahed drone mid-air in the third Russia aerial attack on the capital in the last 24 hours in Kyiv, Ukraine, on May 30, 2023.

Associated Press

district, Tolokonnikov said. "The child was hospitalized, there is no threat to his life," Tolokonnikov added," he said on state TV. Shelling of Kherson province continued Sunday morning, wounding four people in the regional capital, also called Kherson. The regional prosecutor's office said that a residential area of the city was targeted by Russian troops operating in the Russia-occupied part of the Kherson province. "At least four citizens were wounded, two of them due to a targeted strike on a high-rise building," the office wrote on Telegram. Meanwhile, Ukraine's military reported that the most intense fighting continued in Ukraine's industrial

east, with attacks focused around Bakhmut, Marinka and Lyman in the country's Donetsk province, where 46 combat clashes took place.

Ukrainian forces were advancing amid a "massive offensive" on the southern and northern flanks of the destroyed city of Bakhmut, Ukraine's Eastern Group of Forces spokesman Serhii Cherevaty told Ukrainian state television. But he didn't mention how much progress they made. The details, he said, would be disclosed once Ukrainian forces had analyzed the situation and consolidated their positions.

In its regular update Sunday morning, the General Staff said that over the pre-

vious 24 hours, Russia had carried out 27 airstrikes, one missile strike and around 80 attacks from multiple rocket launchers, targeting regions in the north, north-east, east and south of the country.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited the Black Sea port city of Odesa on Sunday — the day the country honors its navy — to hear a report from the navy commander, discuss prospects for the development of a naval drone and missile program, as well as present awards to service members.

In Russia, local officials reported that air defense systems shot down a drone over the Belgorod region, which borders Ukraine, while the neighboring Kursk region faced shelling attacks. No casualties or damage were reported.

Following the drama of Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin's rebellion last week, Russian authorities remained defiant. Vyacheslav Volodin, speaker of Russia's lower house of parliament, the State Duma, said Sunday that Russian President Vladimir Putin came out of this situation "having strengthened his position even more both in the country and in the world." □

U.K. police have new expanded powers to crack down on protests

LONDON (AP) — New and expanded powers for British police took effect on Sunday, including measures targeting activists who stop traffic and major building works with protests.

Authorities have repeatedly condemned environmental protest groups, including Just Stop Oil and Extinction Rebellion, which have sought to raise awareness about the urgency of climate change by staging multiple high-profile protests at the busiest highways and roads. Their protests in recent years often caused serious disruption

for motorists.

From Sunday, police will have powers to move static protests. Critics have argued the toughened laws are a threat to the right to protest, but U.K. officials say the measures were to stop "disruption from a selfish minority."

"The public have had enough of their lives being disrupted by selfish protesters. The mayhem we've seen on our streets has been a scandal," Home Secretary Suella Braverman said.

Authorities say that under the new Public Order Act,

protesters found guilty of "tunnelling" — or digging underground tunnels to obstruct the building of new infrastructure works — could face three years in prison. Anyone found guilty of obstructing a major transportation project could be jailed for up to six months.

The law also makes "locking on," or protesters attaching themselves to other people, objects or buildings, a criminal offense.

Hundreds of climate change protesters were arrested last year in the U.K. for blocking major roads

and bridges. Many activists protested by sitting in the middle of the roads or gluing themselves to the roadway to make them harder to move.

The civil disobedience is a wave of direct action that has also seen activists glue themselves to famous museum paintings or throw soup at artworks to draw media attention to their cause.

Police have said it's costly to deal with the protests and that they diverted thousands of officers from other work like dealing with crime. □

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Forensic medical examiners work at the scene where an unidentified man was killed in Apatzingan, Mexico, Sunday, July 2, 2023.

Associated Press

APATZINGAN, Mexico (AP)

— The drug cartel violence that citizen self-defense leader Hipolito Mora gave his life fighting flared anew on Sunday, just one day after he was buried, as shootings and road blockades hit the city of Apatzingan, a regional hub in Mexico's hot lands. Roads in and out of Apatzingan were blocked Sunday morning by trucks and buses pulled across the road by cartel gunmen, as the vehicles' owners stood by helplessly. "They told me to park my truck across the road. They said if I moved it, they would burn it," said one truck driver, who asked his

name not be used for fear of reprisals. And in the city of Apatzingan, the regional hub where the area's agricultural products are traded, gunmen carjacked a family, took their auto at gun point and used it to shoot another driver to death just a few blocks away. The victim's car was left dangling from a bridge as he lay dead inside, slumped onto the passenger's side seat. The execution was so quick that his car continued on for a few yards, the front end climbed onto the guard rail of the bridge, and came to rest almost

Drug cartel violence flares in western Mexico after vigilante leader's killing

turned on its side. A friend of the man said he worked at a car dealership and had gone on a pizza run for a family get-together a few moments before he died. The friend blamed the Jalisco cartel for the killing, despite the fact that Apatzingan has long been dominated by the rival Viagras cartel. The theory is not so wild. The Jalisco cartel, from the neighboring state of the same name, has been fighting an years-long offensive to enter Michoacan. The roadblocks Sunday might have been because the Viagras gang feared such an attack. The front lines in the battles now lie along the ill-named Rio Grande, a small river that runs about 15 miles (23 kilometers) south of Apatzingan. Residents of Las Bateas, a riverside village, had to flee their homes about a month ago after raging gunbattles between the Jalisco cartel and the Viagras broke out in the fields outside the homes.

Jalisco gunmen have crossed the river, seeking to take over territory farther north, on the southern outskirts of Apatzingan. Residents recounted cowering behind the brick walls of their homes as bullets whizzed through the night. The Mexican government sent in army and National Guard reinforcements, part of an unspoken, years-long policy of keeping Jalisco from advancing, while tolerating the Viagras. Residents say they feel a bit safer now, and have largely returned to their homes, at least for now. But the status quo is clearly unsustainable. Because of systematic extortion by the Viagras cartel, many common items in Apatzingan are far more expensive than in the rest of Mexico. A soda that costs 80 cents elsewhere costs \$1.40 here. An coconut popsicle that costs 90 cents in the rest of Mexico costs \$1.75 in Apatzingan. Those price differences — and direct extortion that wrings protection

payments directly from farmers, ranchers and businessmen — is slowly strangling the rich farmlands. That is what Hipolito Mora, one of the last leaders of Mexico's anti-gang citizens' movement, died fighting. He was buried Saturday alongside two of his faithful followers who were killed with him Thursday. Along him died practically any hope of reviving an armed civilian resistance to drug cartels. While some angry relatives talked of reviving the 2013-2014 armed farmers' movement that kicked out one cartel — only to see it replaced by others — many doubted that chapter could ever be repeated. "He looked out for his town, for his people, and that is something none of us is going to do," his sister, Olivia Mora, said in a tearful address in front of his coffin. "We all think first about our own families," she said. "None of us are going to have the courage to do what he did." □

Israel to buy more F-35 fighter jets from U.S., deal expands fleet by 50%

By JULIA FRANKEL

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel will buy 25 F-35 aircraft from the United States, the Israeli Defense Ministry announced Sunday, in a deal that increases Israel's arsenal of the stealth fighter jets by 50%.

The F-35 is the world's most advanced fighter jet, and Israel is the only country in the Middle East to fly them. The \$3 billion purchase, which increases the Israeli fleet of F-35 jets from 50 to 75, is set to be finalized in the coming months, the ministry said.

It said the deal would be financed through American military aid to Israel and that the maker of the plane, Lockheed Martin, and the maker of its engine, Pratt & Whitney, had committed to involving Israeli companies in the production process. "The new agreement will ensure the continuation



An Israeli F-35 lands at Ovda airbase during the bi-annual multi-national aerial exercise known as the Blue Flag, at Ovda airbase near Eilat, southern Israel, Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021.

Associated Press

of cooperation between American companies and Israeli defense industries in the production of aircraft parts," the statement read. The move to expand the Israeli arsenal comes at a time of heightened tensions between Israel and Iran. Israel, which considers Iran its greatest enemy, has previously used F-35 jets to shoot down Iranian drones, and has threatened to carry out a long-range strike on Iranian nuclear targets. Israel accuses Iran of trying to develop a nuclear weapon — a charge Iran denies — and is believed to be behind a string of attacks on Iranian nuclear experts and facilities inside Iran over the years. Israel, which has sought to counter Iranian entrenchment in neighboring Syria, conducted an airstrike on the Syrian city of Homs on Sunday, one of hundreds of strikes on government-controlled parts of Syria in recent years. □

of cooperation between American companies and Israeli defense industries in



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Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!



The Baby Natural Bridge

(Oranjestad)—After you've visited the Alto Vista Church, the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and the mini natural pool that is located right next to it, you're next up around the northern coast line must be the Natural Bridge. Once the largest natural bridge in the Caribbean, this bridge has been a tourist attraction for

many years.

The bridge was formed during thousands of years, cut and crafted by the wild waves that crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Before its collapse, this bridge measured 30 meters in length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in

the Caribbean at the time. For many years, this site was also a frequently visited beach, as the bridge had a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach.

Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the little beach dried up. Despite this, this site remained a tourist attraction, with many visitors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view of the northern coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the bridge entrance.

While the natural bridge no longer is functional, there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the "Baby Bridge" or "Daughter Bridge". □



The Natural Bridge pre-collapse



Current state of the Natural Bridge

Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations

(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your "off-road" trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on

top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding "mondi"*. This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

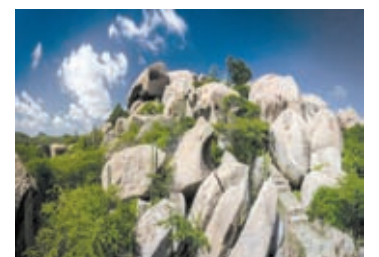
Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south. Right in front of the entrance, there is the Casibari Café and Grill, a great

place to get refreshments and snack before continuing your off-road adventure!

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way!

*Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi! □



Over a decade in business, Aruba Living Today: Offering the so much needed human touch



NOORD — We are in 2023. It was a wild ride with Covid-19 and we all are aiming for a change of routine. We simply want to “live” life again. “It is time for living your dream,” as the quote says at Aruba Living Today’s office. “We are fifteen plus years in business, and I am proud to say that all our clients stuck with us. We are no part of a big company, we keep it small, personal, and real. Because you are not a number, no sales target either and certainly your name is not commission. Our responsibility is to make your dream come true,” says owner Randolph Arends.

From human to human

If you have decided to buy a house or rent one for vacation in Aruba and you are looking for that match, the question now is how to click with a person that offers a personal touch? One who pays genuine attention and has sincere interest in what you want?

This different approach to real estate is what sets Aruba Living Today apart, and the reason Randolph calls himself a property mediator instead of a real estate broker. “The personal touch is essential to me. I am stepping aside of the image that real estate brokers are only in for the commission. This image does not fit me at all, I am in for my passion, and I can only do this from the heart.”

One stop shopping point

Services offered by Aruba Living Today are House and Land Sales, Rentals, Investments, Property Management, Vacation Rental, Mortgages, Insurances, Maintenance, Assist in Arrangements for Notary and Utilities, Guiding Bureaucracy Process and Assisting in Import of Furniture. Randolph and his business partner Eladio Max Maduro. Born in Aruba, he was raised in the Netherlands. Max was Corporal mandatory in the Dutch Army/Genie der Landmacht. He also studied financial administration in the Netherlands, and has a degree in Dutch insurance law. Max has 40 years work experience in all kind of insurance, specialized liability and pension law. In the past, he worked for local and international insurance brokers companies.

As per March 1st 2023, he is working as a commercial partner at Aruba Living Today.

You are welcome to meet in person

Aruba Living Today houses in an authentic Aruban house, welcoming you in a warm ambiance that emphasizes the philosophy of connecting. Candles, Buddha ornaments and a homey setting form the décor for you to sit and talk about your dream house or investment. “My goal was to do real estate in a different way when I established this company June 1st 2009. Not from the perspective of only selling, but to look for the perfect match between dream house and client. My philosophy is: it will only work when all involved are happy and connected by that personal touch.”



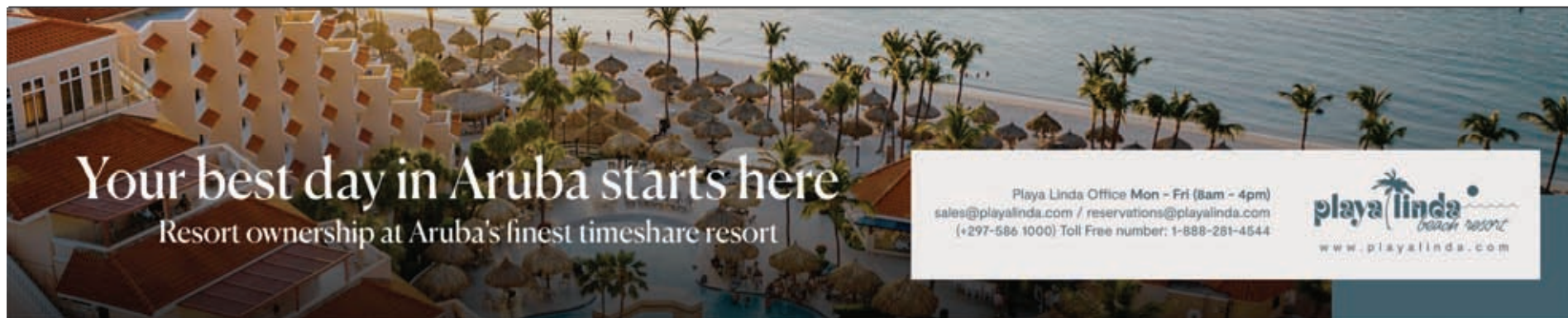
Aruba Living Today caters for both local and foreign market divided into 40 % local buyers and 60 % foreign buyers. “Our customers come from Holland, Belgium, Norway, Germany, UK, Russia, Latin America, United States and Canada. We are widely covered and thus provable good with different cultures, also we speak four languages.” Besides that, Aruba Living Today is open to every budget, they have listings for all category buyers.

As a member of the Aruban Real Estate Association, they are listed also on the website www.arubalisting.com within a group of 20 of the most advanced realtors on the island.

Aruba Living Today is featured on House Hunters, social media, Aruba Living Today and of course in Aruba Today’s newspaper. □

Aruba Living Today

Tankileendert 291, Aruba
Tel +297 587 9987
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Cell +297 593 9177
Mail randolph@livingtoday.aw



Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. These Distinguished Visitors were respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10 > years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20 > years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35 >

years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors Mr. Charles & Mrs. Julie Hill from Indiana, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort bestowed the distinguished Visitor certificate to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by Mr. & Mrs. Hill were:

The safety of the island
Aruba's warm and friendly people who always treat



them like family
Aruba's year-round sunny weather.

The variety of fun activities to choose from.

"Aruba's variety of restaurants – they are all great!"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would

like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. Hill for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". ☐

Aruba to me



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The district of Savaneta

A quick history guide to the island's first capital

(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the leg-

end of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first

form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However, Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805)

During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the



"Quebracho" (Kibrahacha) tree; used to make dye and paint

island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curacao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island

moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

How Savaneta got its name
The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "savana".

Because of its land surface, Savaneta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th.

Source: Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta) by Adolf "Dufi" Kock.

infini

by Urvin Croes

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Let us take you on a culinary journey



www.infiniaruba.com

Lui bee farm Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Honey bees wild and domestic perform about 80 percent of all pollination worldwide. A single bee colony can pollinate 300 million flowers each day. Grains are primarily pollinated by the wind, but fruits, nuts and vegetables are pollinated by bees. Seventy out of the top 100 human food crops — which supply about 90 percent of the world's nutrition — are pollinated by bees.

Seeing the importance of saving the bees Aruba is not staying behind. We have many people interested in saving and protecting these bees. Many are practicing Apiculture which consists of saving and protecting the bees with the sole purpose to produce honey locally. One of these persons is the very well-known on the island Mr. Luis Winterdaal, founder of Lui Bee Farm Aruba.

Luis Winterdaal was born and raised in Aruba on October 10th 1954 in the city of Savaneta. A person with great love for the nature and all animals. Luis started working with bees when he was only 15 years old. At that time there were no special equipment to use when working with bees such as face masks

and smokers. Luis used to make his own face protection equipment from wired screens sewed to a t-shirt. He also cut out the legs of his jeans to use them to protect his arms and as smoker he used cookie cans.

11 Years ago Luis met 3 young people who love bees and saw the importance that these bees have for the humanity. Giles, Jourdan and Suyen. With much passion and all the patience in the world Luis taught these 3 youngsters everything they needed to know about bees. From there started the idea of the farm. To save and protect these bees. They all try to demonstrate and teach the people of Aruba the importance these bees have. Their vision is to save as much bees as possible from being killed. For more than 45 years Luis has been helping our people of Aruba to solve any type of bee problems at their homes. Luis together with Giles, Jourdan and Suyen have been all over the island bringing their passion and knowledge in order to save these bees.

Organic honey:

At Lui Bee farm Aruba they have special bee boxes which are filled with bees that were rescued from dif-

ferent houses and locations all around the island. Not always when rescuing bees you will find honey. Sometimes you will find the wax with only baby bees and if you are lucky you will find wax filled with honey.

The honey from the boxes at their location are not being emptied every time why? Because of the lack of rain on the island, most of the time it's very dry and this can be very stressful for the bees. Why the stress? Because they have to make new wax and also in such dry period they use honey to feed themselves to survive.

Honey that they produce and sell at their farm does not contain any chemicals. Their honey goes directly from the wax to the bottles. The whole process takes place at their own facility. They encounter all types of color of honey on the island from light to black honey. Since they depend very much on the water/rain for these bees to survive the production of see is not consistent. Lui Bee Farm wishes to someday be able to produce enough honey to distribute to the whole island. Honey is very beneficial for your overall health and is very important for the human being. Honey products are daily used for as medicine and in many beauty products.

Most of the time bees rescued from houses are in swarm or have been there for years. Common places to find bees are: under the roof, on the roof, ceiling, in trees, in tires, on the walls, bird cages, under containers even in septic tanks anywhere you can think of is possible. They have even been called several times at hotels to remove hives from a bedroom or from the rooftop.

At Lui Bee Farm they know how important these bees are for our environment therefore when assisting at removing these hives they will stay there until they find the 'queen'. Who naturally is the most important for the production of the hon-



ey. Whenever they find her their job is done.

According to Luis bees in Aruba are not aggressive. If you leave them alone and don't disturb them they won't attack you. Therefore Lui Bee Farm kindly requests you to help the bees by putting water around the house. Especially during dry seasons. These bees need as much flowers and

water as possible in order to survive. Please do not kill them!! To Lui Bee Farm a world without bees is like a dessert without food!!

For more information call them at 593-6694, email luibeefarmaruba@gmail.com or check their Facebook page Lui bee farm aruba or follow them on Instagram @luibeefarmaruba. □



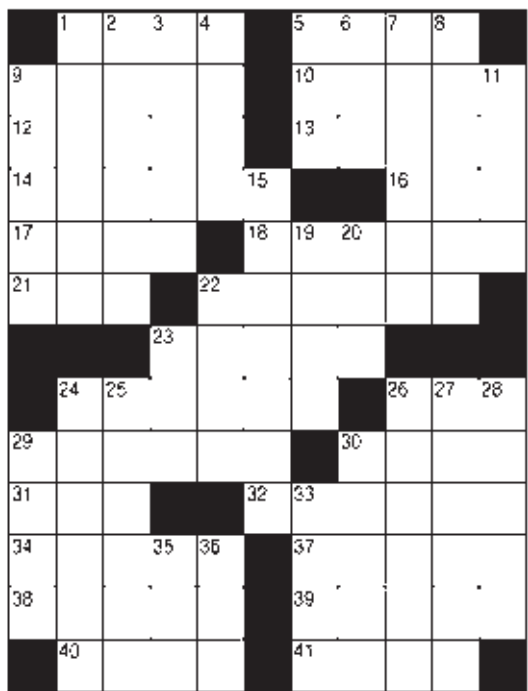
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 39 Small body of land
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 - 17 Tear asunder
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 - 26 Sheep sound
 - 29 "Jeopardy!" host Alex
 - 30 Bears' lairs
 - 31 Evergreen shrub
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 - 34 Trims
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 - 29 Keyboard goof
 - 30 Thick
 - 33 Bucket
 - 35 Retina setting
 - 36 Compass pt.

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TONYA CHILD
ETE IRK TEA
SIMILE TORY
CANISTERS
ANTON
GANGSTERS
SORE OTTAWA
PAC ONE VIP
AWARD RAINS
TONED SINGE
SLEDS MESS

Saturday's answer



AXYDI.BAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-3

CRYPTOQUOTE

K B K X R O X K R W B H Z H
U H B J K U Q P L B J R X R O
B J O U O U L Y J R W R R C X R .

R.V. PRUXHU

Saturday's Cryptoquote: I MISS THE DAYS WHEN YOU COULD PUSH SOMEONE INTO WATER WITHOUT HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT THEIR CELLPHONE. — ANONYMOUS

Are you confronting a big medical bill? Attack it with a plan — and these tips

By TOM MURPHY
AP Health Writer

An enormous medical bill can trigger a wave of panic, but try to resist.

That startling invoice that arrived in the mail may not be what you wind up paying. Errors or slow insurance payments may have inflated the total. Even if it's accurate, financial aid or other assistance might help pare it.

Sometimes a simple phone call clears up a problem. Other times, reinforcements are necessary. Debt experts say patients should attack medical bills with a plan. Here are key steps to take.

CHECK THE NUMBERS

Don't stash the bill in a pile of mail and hope it goes away, but don't rush to pay it without first understanding the amount.

"Especially if it's a really high bill, consider it like an opening offer," says Caitlin Donovan, a spokesperson for the nonprofit Patient Advocate Foundation, which helps critically or chronically ill patients deal with debt and insurance problems.

Medical bills can be rife with errors. They also may have been sent before insurance coverage was sorted out.

Donovan recommends comparing the bill with your insurer's explanation of benefits. That's a document the insurer sends that explains how your coverage will apply to the care you received. It can give you a sense for what you may still owe based on your deductible or the plan's out-of-pocket maximum.

If something looks weird, call both the insurer and hospital for an explanation.



David White, who after kidney surgery got hit with a lot of extra charges, sits for a portrait with some of his medical bill charges in the foreground, at his home in Temple Hills, Md., Monday, June 26, 2023.

Associated Press

Someone at the hospital may have mistakenly entered the wrong code for the care you received or duplicated it. Request an itemized bill from the hospital to see if that happened. But be aware that those bills also can be hard to interpret or contain errors that have little to do with the charge, Donovan said.

KNOW THE LAW

The No Surprises Act debuted last year and offers a layer of protection. Patients should check to make sure their care provider is following that law.

It prevents doctors or hospitals in many situations from billing insured patients higher rates when the care providers are not in their insurer's coverage network. The law offers protection for most emergency care by basically requiring that patients receive in-network coverage with no additional billing from the provider. It also protects patients from huge bills for lab work or an out-of-network anesthesiologist when the patient was treated at an in-network hospital.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has established a "No Surprises Help Desk" for people who have questions about whether their bill complies with the law. They can call (800) 985-3059 or submit a complaint online.

SEEK OUTSIDE HELP

There are a host of for-profit and nonprofit organizations that can help people navigate medical bills.

The Patient Advocate Foundation helped David White recoup more than \$2,000 he paid for routine lab work after his kidney transplant.

"Every single penny that I paid out was refunded," said the 61-year-old White, a volunteer foundation board member. "There's just no way I could figure this out on my own."

The foundation offers an online directory of potential resources for medical or prescription bill help.

Outside help might also include a state attorney general's office, which may have a health advocacy unit or a consumer protection division.

Be very wary of any sort of medical credit card a provider may offer, said John McNamara, a principal assistant director with the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Those cards may come with high interest rates or terms that can hurt the patient financially if the debt isn't fully paid in a certain time frame. □

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24/7

Elon Musk imposes daily limits on reading posts on Twitter

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Twitter owner Elon Musk has limited the number of tweets that users can view each day — restrictions he described as an attempt to prevent unauthorized scraping of potentially valuable data from the social media platform.

The site is now requiring people to log on to view tweets and profiles — a change in its longtime practice to allow everyone to peruse the chatter on what Musk has frequently touted as the world's digital town square since buying it for \$44 billion last year.

The restrictions could result in users being locked out of Twitter for the day after scrolling through several hundred tweets. Thousands of users complained Saturday of not being able to access the site.

In a Friday tweet, Musk described the new restrictions as a temporary measure that was taken because "we were getting data pilaged so much that it was degrading service for normal users!"

Musk has pushed back on what he calls misuse of Twitter data to train popular artificial intelligence systems like ChatGPT. They scour reams of information online to generate human-like text, photos, video and other content.

Musk elaborated on the limits Saturday, saying unverified accounts will temporarily be restricted to reading 600 posts per day, while verified accounts will be able to scroll through up to 6,000.

After facing backlash, he tweeted that the thresholds would be raised to 800 posts for unverified accounts and 8,000 for verified accounts before later settling on 1,000 and 10,000 tweets, respectively.

The crackdown began to have ripple effects, causing more than 7,500 people at one point Saturday to report problems using the social media service, based on complaints registered on DOWNDetector, a website that tracks online outages.

Although that's a rela-



Elon Musk, who owns Twitter, Tesla and SpaceX, speaks at the Vivatex fair, June 16, 2023, in Paris. Associated Press

tively small number of Twitter's more than 200 million worldwide users, the trouble was widespread enough to cause the #TwitterDown hashtag to trend in some parts of the world. The higher threshold allowed on verified accounts is part of an \$8-per-month subscription service that Musk rolled out earlier this year in an effort to boost Twitter revenue. It has fallen sharply since the billionaire Tesla CEO took over the company and laid off roughly three-fourths of the workforce to cut costs and

stave off bankruptcy. Advertisers have since curbed their spending on Twitter, partly because of changes that have allowed more sometimes-hateful and prickly content that offends a wider part of the service's audience. Musk recently hired longtime NBC Universal executive Linda Yaccarino as Twitter's CEO to try to win back advertisers. An Associated Press inquiry about Saturday's access problems triggered a crude automated reply that Twitter sends to most

media queries without addressing the question. □



ARUBA TODAY

Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors
Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo

Sales
Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection
accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
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W: www.arubatoday.com
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Rickie Fowler wins Rocket Mortgage Classic, ends 4-year drought

By **LARRY LAGE**

AP Sports Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Rickie Fowler tilted his head back, exhaled and smiled.

He finally did it, holding on for a win after so many have slipped away.

Refusing to crumble and collapse again, Fowler made a 12-foot birdie putt on the first playoff hole of the Rocket Mortgage Classic and outlasted Colin Morikawa and Adam Hadwin on Sunday, two weeks after squandering a chance at the U.S. Open.

"It's just nice to have this one out of the way," Fowler said after winning for the first time in four years. "I'm obviously going to soak this one in and celebrate a bit."

"Yeah, it's just been a long road."

Fowler ended a career-long, 96-start championship drought after missing out on two chances to win in June, closing with a 75 at the U.S. Open to tie for fifth and with a 69 last week at the Travelers Championship to drop into a tie for 13th.

Followed all day by a sea of orange at Detroit Golf Club, Fowler was knocked down on the leaderboard by a near record-tying round from Morikawa. He responded on his 72nd hole of the tournament with an



Rickie Fowler holds the winner's trophy after winning on the first play-off hole on the 18th green during the final round of the Rocket Mortgage Classic golf tournament at Detroit Country Club, Sunday, July 2, 2023, in Detroit.

approach from 145 feet that left him with a 3-foot birdie putt to pull into a three-way tie with Morikawa and Hadwin at 24 under.

Fowler hit an errant tee shot way right in the playoff and after a drop, his approach from 184 landed 12 feet from the cup. Morikawa was inches long on his approach and instead of having the ball spin back to the hole, it bounced into the rough.

"I truly thought I hit the perfect shot," Morikawa said.

"It just was a little juiced, went a little far and just didn't have the putter in the hand. Not that the chip wasn't possible, but would have been nice to have the putter in the hand." Hadwin missed a 22-foot putt and Morikawa his chip, opening the door for Fowler to close out the tournament before thunderstorms rolled over Detroit.

"I knew it was just a matter of time with how I've been playing," said Fowler, who has eight top-10 finishes this season. "I've had a couple

tough weekends where I had a chance."

Even though Morikawa was disappointed in coming up short on a victory he has been shooting for since winning the 2021 British Open, he was happy for Fowler.

"He's been playing phenomenal golf, it's great to see," he said. "People love him."

Morikawa's 8-under round put him one shot back from the course record of 63. Hadwin shot a 67 and Fowler a 68.

Associated Press

Fowler had a share of the 54-hole lead last month at Los Angeles Country Club with an opportunity to win his first major and was at least a co-leader after three rounds in one tournament in each of the previous two years.

Before his breakthrough in Detroit, he had won just two of the 10 times he was the third-round leader or co-leader.

The 34-year-old Fowler physically and mentally did what was needed to earn his sixth PGA Tour victory and his first since winning the 2019 Waste Management Phoenix Open.

While Fowler faltered, going 10 straight holes settling for pars on a relatively easy course, Morikawa had four birdies on both the front and back nine. Morikawa made a 10-foot putt at No. 12, his fourth birdie in a six-hole stretch that put him within a shot of Fowler, and his 9-footer for birdie at No. 14 pulled him into a tie with Fowler at 23 under.

Monday qualifier Peter Kuest (65), Lucas Glover (65) and Taylor Moore (67) were tied for fourth at 21 under. Kuest, who started the week ranked 789th in the world, did well enough to earn a spot in this week's John Deere Classic in Illinois. □

Victor Lafay gives French team Cofidis 1st win in 15 years



France's Victor Lafay crosses the finish line ahead of Belgium's Wout Van Aert, right and second place, to win the second stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 209 kilometers (130 miles) with start in Vitoria Gasteiz and finish in San Sebastian, Spain, Sunday, July 2, 2023.

Associated Press

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain (AP)

— It took a late breakaway

by Victor Lafay for French team Cofidis to end its 15-

year winless streak at the Tour de France.

Cofidis won the second stage on Sunday after Lafay moved to the front and held off a late charge by the favorites to clinch the victory, with Adam Yates keeping the overall lead after the opening two stages in northern Spain.

Cofidis hadn't won in the Tour since Sylvain Chavanel triumphed in the 19th stage of the 2008 edition.

"It's a relief for Cofidis to finally get a stage win," Lafay said. "I've been hearing about this for five years since I joined the team. I'm happy to free the team from this burden. We'll keep going. We want more."

The French rider took the lead within the final kilometer (0.6 miles) and held on for victory in what was the Tour's longest stage this year.

The peloton came charging at the end but couldn't catch up with him ahead of the finish line.

"When I attacked, I didn't even evaluate if it was going to work or not," said Lafay, whose only other victory at a Grand Tour race had come in the 2021 Giro d'Italia.

"Then I was seeing the finishing line getting closer and my power getting lower in numbers but it has worked out. It's crazy."

The 27-year-old Lafay

maintained the tradition of French stage wins in San Sebastian after Louis Caput in 1949 and Dominique Arnould in 1992.

Wout van Aert of Jumbo-Visma was second and Tadej Pogacar third at the finish line in the Basque Country city of San Sebastian after a hilly stage of more than 200 kilometers (124 miles).

Yates, the winner of the opening stage on Saturday, finished close behind to retain the overall leader's yellow Jersey.

He was six seconds ahead of race-favorite Pogacar and his twin brother Simon Yates, who was second on Saturday. □

Ohtani becomes 2-way All-Star for 3rd straight year

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Shohei Ohtani became a two-way All-Star for the third straight year when he was picked for the American League pitching staff on Sunday, and eight Atlanta Braves were chosen for the July 11 game in Seattle — the most of any team since 2012.

Ohtani was elected to the pitching staff by players 10 days after fans voted him to start at designated hitter. Ohtani appeared on the most ballots among AL players. He is the only two-way All-Star in major league history.

At the 2021 game in Denver, Ohtani grounded out against Max Scherzer and Corbin Burnes, and pitched a perfect first inning, retiring Fernando Tatis Jr. on a flyout and Max Muncy and Nolan Arenado on groundouts. Last year at Dodger Stadium, Ohtani singled on Clayton Kershaw's first pitch of the game and walked against Joe Murgueta. Ohtani didn't pitch. Atlanta outfielder Ronald Acuña Jr., shortstop Orlando Arcia and catcher Sean Murphy were elected to the National League starting lineup by fans. They will be joined by five Braves teammates voted in by fellow players: starting pitchers Spencer Strider and Bryce Elder, first baseman Matt Olson, second baseman Ozzie Albies and third baseman Austin Riley. Atlanta entered Sunday with the best record in the majors at 55-27.

The previous team with eight All-Stars was the 2012 Texas Rangers. It was the first time an NL club had eight picks since the 2008 Chicago Cubs.

Texas has six All-Stars this year and the Dodgers five. Arizona rookie outfielder Corbin Carroll, a Seattle native elected to start, is the youngest All-Star at 22. Dodgers designated hitter J.D. Martinez is the oldest at 35.

Twenty-six players are first-time All-Stars. Angels center fielder Mike Trout has the most All-Star selections

with 11, making his 10th trip as a starter.

Starting pitchers Zac Gallen, Kershaw and Marcus Stroman also were voted to the NL staff along with relievers Alexis Díaz, Camilo Doval and Josh Hader.

NL reserves voted in by players included catcher Will Smith, shortstop Dansby Swanson, outfielders Lourdes Gurriel Jr. and Nick Castellanos, and designated hitter Jorge Soler.

MLB had six NL picks, using five for players on teams still without All-Stars: pitchers Josiah Gray, Mitch Keller, Justin Steele and Devin Williams along with first baseman Pete Alonso and catcher Elias Díaz.

Starting pitchers Gerrit Cole, Nathan Eovaldi, Sonny Gray and Shane McCla-



Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani grimaces after swinging for a strike during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Arizona Diamondbacks Saturday, July 1, 2023, in Anaheim, Calif. Associated Press

nahan were voted by players to the AL staff along with Ohtani. The relievers elected by fellow players were Felix Bautista, Yennier Cano and Emmanuel Clase.

AL reserves elected by players included catcher Adley Rutschman, first baseman Vladimir Guerrero Jr., second baseman Whit Merrifield, shortstop Bo Bichette, third baseman

José Ramírez and outfielders Yordan Alvarez, Adolis García and Austin Hays, and designated hitter Brent Rooker.

MLB used five of its seven AL picks for players whose teams were not already represented, selecting Luis Castillo of the host Mariners along with fellow pitchers Kevin Gausman, Kenley Jansen, Michael Lorenzen and Framber Valdez, plus catcher Salvador Perez and outfielder Luis Robert Jr. Keller, a 27-year-old Pittsburgh right-hander, became an All-Star in his fifth season. Two years ago he was pitching for Triple-A Indianapolis at the time of the All-Star Game and last year he was demoted to the bullpen for two weeks in May. □



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Eagle Beach – When you think of a restaurant that pleases the needs of a whole family or a large group of people with all different tastes? Think Water's Edge Restaurant. Located at the shore of Aruba's most wonderful beach, The Eagle Beach Aruba. Water's Edge Restaurant is guaranteed to serve you a fantastic magical night to remember. Whether you prefer to enjoy the view from indoors air conditioned comfort, outdoors in the soft tropical breeze or under a palapa with your toes in the sand. This spectacular restaurant offers the best ocean view sunset or sky full of stars dinner while the crispy Caribbean night wind caresses your face and plays with your hair.

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Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the mouthwatering creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp.

You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the

great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Creating memories

If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.



Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☐



"Water's Edge Restaurant is where magnificent beach views, amazing food and excellent service come together."

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call **+297 583-8000 / ext 8106** or direct line **+297 586-9494**

For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website **watersedge-aruba.com**

